Radioactive monitoring stations

2207. DR. ALLADI R RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of radioactive monitoring stations to check radioactive levels set up in the country;

(b) whether air samples are collected regularly and analysed to check environmental pollution from radioactive substances; and

(c) the agencies monitoring the radiation levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are twenty five (25) radioactive monitoring stations set up in the country to check the radioactive levels.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Environmental Assessment Division of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Health Physics Units and Environmental Survey Laboratories of Health, Safety and Environment Group of BARC at different locations in the country, two Defence laboratories (Jodhpur and Tezpur) and two univereities (Andhra University and Mangalore University) regularly monitor the radioactive levels.

Power generation from thorium

2208. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has abundant quantity of thorium for nuclear power generation; and

(b) if so, the action proposed for more nuclear power generation to meet power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the enormous'energy potential of the abundant thorium resource in beach sands, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has already worked out plans for generation of nuclear power based on thorium. As a first step the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has designed

a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) where most of its power will be derived from thorium based fuels. Implementation of AHWR will also help establish all the related technologies for production and reprocessing of fuels based on thorium.

Technology and fuel for nuclear power generation

†2209. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some of the countries have refused to supply atomic technology and atomic fuel in lieu of atomic energy and India has to rely upon the old fuel; and

(b) if so, the names of such countries alongwith the reasons for their refusal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) We have been successfully implementing our atomic energy programme on the basis of our self reliant indigenous development despite restrictions in nuclear technologies and fuel by some countries. Requirements of fuel are met from indigenous mines and supplies from abroad in specific cases.

Nuclear radiation threat

2210. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central unit has been constituted that would act in time of nuclear radiation threat In the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether its role has clearly been studied and defined at the time of crisis such as nuclear radiation threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY {SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has been identified as the nodal agency to provide

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.